AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Listing of the claims:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method to code and decode digital data ~~transmitted or~~
2 ~~stored according to the prioritized pixel transmission method~~ that is prioritized for
transmission or storage, wherein the digital data contains image data including an array of
4 individual image points (pixels) where each pixel has a pixel value which describes the
color or luminance information of the pixel, wherein the pixels are prioritized by the steps
6 of: a) determining a priority value for each pixel of the array by calculating a pixel
difference value with the aid of the respective pixel value of the pixel in relation to the
8 pixel values of a previously determined group of neighboring pixels; b) combining the
pixels used for the calculation of priority value into a pixel group; and c) sorting the pixel
10 groups of the image array with the aid of their priority value, wherein the information to
be coded or decoded comprises individual pixel groups, wherein each pixel group has a
12 positional value, at least one pixel value, and a priority value assigned to it, said method
comprising using at least one key ~~used with which~~ to selectively code or decode the
14 positional value and/or the pixel value/pixel values of ~~a~~ an individual pixel group ~~are~~
~~selectively coded or decoded~~.
16

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the key is
2 selectively linked to the type of information content to be coded and/or to the original
source, and/or to the transmission medium used, or it contains a temporal relationship.
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11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein each pixel
2 value, or one or more selected pixel values, are coded or decoded using its own separate
key.
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12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein each pixel
value, or one or more selected pixel values, are coded or decoded using its own separate
key.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein a
symmetrical coding method is carried out.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein a
symmetrical coding method is carried out.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein a
symmetrical coding method is carried out.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein an
asymmetrical coding method is carried out.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein an
asymmetrical coding method is carried out.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein an
asymmetrical coding method is carried out.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein in that the
pixel groups are comprised of digitized scanned values of an audio signal.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein in that the
pixel groups are comprised of digitized scanned values of an audio signal.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein in that the
pixel groups are comprised of digitized scanned values of an audio signal.

22. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the ~~files~~ digital data contain image data, video data or audio data.

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23. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein the ~~files~~ digital data contain image data, video data or audio data.

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24. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the ~~files~~ digital data contain image data, video data or audio data.

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25. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the ~~files~~ digital data contain image data, video data or audio data.

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26. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the color level of the pixel values is coded or decoded in ~~graduations~~ gradations using a separate key.

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27. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the color level of the pixel values is coded or decoded in ~~graduations~~ gradations using a separate key.

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28. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the color level of the pixel values is coded or decoded in ~~graduations~~ gradations using a separate key.

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29. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein the color level of the pixel values is coded or decoded in ~~graduations~~ gradations using a separate key.

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30. (New) The method according to claim 9, in combination with storing and/or transmitting the pixel groups according to their priority.

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31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the transmission and

2   storage of the prioritized pixel groups is done in the form of data packets, wherein an

individual data packet contains a data value that describes the position of the pixel group

4   in the array and further contains the values of the individual pixels of the pixel group, and

wherein the data packets are transmitted and/or stored in descending order according to

6   importance.